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X-ray study of pressure-collapsed fullerite

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X-ray-diffraction studies are described for a new phase of carbon called collapsed fullerite (CF) that was produced by application of high pressure to fullerite (C_{60}). At ~ 20 GPa there is an irreversible transition to a phase that has neither the (111) Bragg peak of diamond nor any of the Bragg peaks associated with the fcc phase of C_{60} . The spectrum of CF is flat and featureless in the range of study.

In a recent paper, Moshary *et al.* reported that at ~ 20 GPa fullerite (C_{60}) undergoes an irreversible phase transition to a new structure of carbon that was called collapsed fullerite (CF).¹ CF was found to be very hard, supporting large-pressure gradients, and was optically observed to go from black for pressurized C_{60} to a semi-transparent yellowish color for CF. Although the Raman spectrum of zero-pressure CF showed a broad line centered at about 1550 cm^{-1} characteristic of an amorphous solid and similar to the Raman spectrum for amorphous carbon (*a*-carbon),² the optical-absorption spectrum was found to be different from that of *a*-carbon, implying that CF is a new form of carbon. In this paper we report on x-ray-diffraction studies of zero-pressure CF.

Our sample no. 1 was prepared as the bulk sample reported by Moshary *et al.* High-purity C_{60} was heated to 250°C and pumped on for a day to remove solvent impurities and possibly oxygen. This was then placed in a T301 stainless-steel gasket and pressurized to 50 GPa in a diamond-anvil cell to transform it into the CF phase. The released sample had an approximate size of $100\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ diameter by $40\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ thick. Its optical and Raman spectra were measured to confirm that it was CF. A lead shield with a hole for CF was micromachined and placed over the gasket-CF combination as an x-ray mask. A second sample, no. 2, was made using similar procedures and analyses, but was pressurized in a rhenium gasket.

X-ray-scattering measurements of room-temperature CF were carried out on the wiggler beam line X25 at the National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS) at Brookhaven National Laboratory, using a monochromatic beam of wavelength $\lambda = 1.29\text{ }\text{\AA}$. X-ray powder patterns were taken in the vertical plane by θ - 2θ scans.

Aside from the parasitic Bragg peaks from the lead shield and stainless-steel gasket of sample no. 1, and the rhenium gasket for sample no. 2, no sharp structure was observed in the powder-diffraction spectra of either CF: for samples nos. 1 and 2, Q_{max} was 4.5 and $5.8\text{ }\text{\AA}^{-1}$, respectively. The wave-vector region near the diamond (111) peak for sample no. 1 is depicted in Fig. 1(a) by the filled squares. The results from similar scans through almost identical gasket-shield assemblies which were filled with uncompressed C_{60} fullerite (open squares) and with $1\text{-}2\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ sized powdered natural diamond grit (solid line) are also displayed in Fig. 1(a). The very intense peak at $Q = 3.05\text{ }\text{\AA}^{-1}$ in the diamond sample, due to the (111)

reflection from diamond, is not observed in any other samples. This indicates no measurable residue of the diamond (111) in either the CF or the C_{60} data, from which we conclude that the CF sample contains $\lesssim 0.1\%$ of diamond. The broader peaks at 3.02 and $3.09\text{ }\text{\AA}^{-1}$ that appear with different intensities in both the CF and C_{60} data, are identified as the stainless-steel peaks by comparing the above spectra with powder-diffraction data (triangles, taken on a different diffractometer and arbitrarily

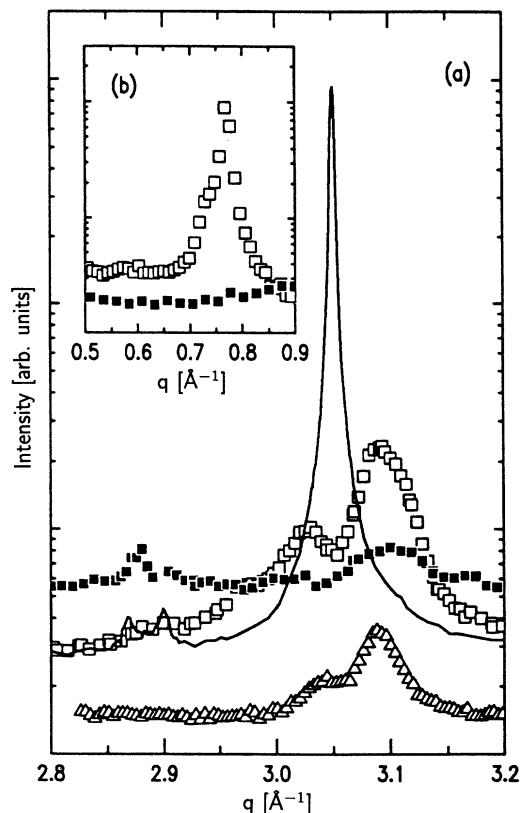


FIG. 1. (a) X-ray scattering data of the region near the diamond (111) peak: diamond (—); C_{60} (\square); CF (\blacksquare); and scattering from stainless steel (\triangle , offset for clarity) that confirms the identity of the corresponding peaks in the other data sets. (b) Inset enlarged views near the C_{60} (111) peak. Same symbols as in (a).

scaled) for a 0.25-mm-thick piece of stainless steel of the same stock from which the gaskets were fabricated. Both the positions and relative intensities of the stainless-steel peaks are in good agreement with the peaks in the C_{60} data; their absence in the diamond data, as well as their smaller amplitude in the CF data, is probably due to variations in the shielding by the micromachined Pb shield.

Figure 1(b) contains a superposition of the data from CF sample no. 1, and from C_{60} in the region surrounding the $C_{60}(111)$ peak, $Q \approx 0.77 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$. The absence of any measurable trace of the 0.77-\AA^{-1} peak in the CF data demonstrates that the C_{60} content of the CF sample is $\lesssim 1\%$. Aside from the parasitic peaks due to the shield-gasket assembly, no feature associated with the CF sample can be identified in the range of Q values covered by our measurements ($Q \leq 4.5 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$). Similarly, the only sharp peaks observed in the x-ray spectra of sample no. 2 are the Bragg peaks associated with the Re gasket. Otherwise, a flat featureless spectrum within the range $0 \leq Q \leq 5.8 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ was observed for the CF. The absence of any peaks at $\sim 3 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$, characteristic of the structures with near-neighbor in-plane trigonal bonding similar to that of crystalline graphite and α -carbon,³⁻⁵ indicates that our CF sample has a structure different from that of crystalline graphite and α -carbon.

Recent high-pressure studies on fullerite, reported by Núñez-Regueiro and co-workers, showed that their pres-

sure transformed C_{60} samples consisted of tiny crystallites of diamond embedded in an amorphous matrix.^{6,7} The Raman spectrum of their sample shows, in addition to the sharp diamond peak, a broad peak centered at 1450 cm^{-1} , which is different from that observed by Moshary *et al.* The work of Núñez-Regueiro and co-workers differs from other static pressurization studies, as large samples (of order 1 mm^3) were compressed using sintered diamond anvils and produced substantially larger samples. The difference in sample preparation may lead to a different structure in their samples.

In summary, x-ray powder-diffraction results show no traces of diamond, graphite, or residual C_{60} in our CF samples: CF appears to have a flat featureless spectrum in the region of study, i.e., $Q \leq 6 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$.

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